

Marks of a Godly Leader - Acts 14:23-28 – April 13th, 2008

- We now come to the end of chapter 14, and with it the end of Paul and Barnabas' first missionary journey. It has been a rough one.
- Because of all the new believers that have been won, and disciples that have been made, Paul and Barnabas need to appoint leaders.
- Luke, by the Holy Spirit, records for us what they do, so as to leave behind Godly leadership in all the churches that have been planted.

- We have, woven into the fabric of our text, several Godly characteristics that are present in those whom God uses to lead His people.
- It's been said that "if you give a man a fish, you feed him once, if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime."
- Paul and Barnabas are doing just that. They care for and are concerned about these new believers in these new churches.

[Paul] had left believers and infant churches behind him. No matter what the cost he would return to Lystra, to Iconium, and to Pisidian Antioch. Paul was not one of those traveling evangelists who breeze into town, hold a few meetings, make some impassioned altar calls, collect a handsome offering, and move on to fresh fields with never a thought for those who have professed faith in Christ. Paul was an evangelist, but he was also a pastor and a teacher. He was a true shepherd. He not only knew how to multiply the flock of God, he knew how to mind the flock."
John Phillips "Exploring Acts" v2 pp 284-285

1. They pray and fast before making decisions(Verse 23)

23 Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.

v23 Before Paul and Barnabas appoint elders in each church, they pray and fast then commit them to the Lord.

1 Timothy 5:22 Do not be in a hurry in the laying on of hands [giving the sanction of the church too hastily in reinstating expelled offenders or in ordination in questionable cases], nor share or participate in another man's sins; keep yourself pure. AMP

1 Timothy 3:1-13 1 Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. 2 Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. 4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. 5(If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) 6 He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. 7 He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace and into the devil's trap. 8 Deacons, likewise, are to be men worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain. 9 They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons. 11 In the same way, their wives are to be women worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything. 12 A deacon must be the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well. 13 Those who have served well gain an excellent standing and great assurance in their faith in Christ Jesus. NIV

2. Are willing to go the extra mile (Verse 24)

24 After going through Pisidia, they came into Pamphylia,

v24 They travel through Pisida and come into Pamphlia, then make their way (in v25) to Attalia.

- What's interesting about this is that Paul would go back through these cities instead of going home. He literally went the extra mile.

Matthew 5:38-42 38 "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' 39 But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. 40 And if someone wants to sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. 41 If someone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. NIV

3. They have a love for God's Word (Verse 25)

25 and when they had preached the word in Perga, they went down to Attalia.

v25 It seems that their primary purpose was to "preach the Word," in all of these cities.

"[An] intimate love of God's Word was obvious to those who knew Chapman. Someone once said, 'To hear Mr. Chapman only read a Psalm is as good as a sermon.' James Wright, who directed the Ashley Downs orphanages in George Muller's latter years, agreed with their statement and added, 'Doubtless ... his unusual grasp of the deeper meanings of Holy Scripture [had something to do with it]. But ...I believe the true explanation is to be found in the intense reverence for and love of the God-breathed words.'" Agape Leadership p15

Psalms 119:97 O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. KJV

4. They have an unflinching commitment (Verse 26)

26 From Attalia they sailed back to Antioch, where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed.

v26 They sail back from Attalia to Antioch to complete the work God had for them because of their commitment to the grace of God.

5. They have patience (Verses 27-28)

27 On arriving there, they gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles. 28 And they stayed there a long time with the disciples.

v27 On their arrival, they gather the church and report all that God had done through them and how he opened the door to the Gentiles.

v28 They patiently stay at their home church in Antioch for a long time with the disciples, possibly for a season of recuperation.

- Some have speculated that God knew that Paul needed this rest because of all the trouble that was brewing.